

The Brooklyn Paper

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A feral cat in a parking lot in Park Slope approaches a meal placed there by Jesse Oldham of Slope Street Cats.

On the prowl with Brooklyn's cat lady

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

It's not just any neighborhood where people can swipe a cat off the street, have his or her genitals surgically removed, and be declared a hero.

But in Park Slope, a group of men and women doing just that has been gaining supporters — and not just because next Monday is National Feral Cat Day.

With that holiday approaching, The Brooklyn Papers accompanied Jesse Oldham, the executive director of Slope Street Cats, as she checked up on one of

her "cat colonies" (as groups of wild felines are known in the feral cat world).

This particular colony has about 11 kitties and sits in a parking lot between two houses. Before Oldham began caring for them, the cats had been keeping neighbors up at night with their notoriously loud mating.

"The neighbors called me in," said Oldham. "And in she swooped, trapping the cats, neutering them, and putting the better-behaved cats up for adoption."

But not all wild cats can, after all, become cuddly lap-sitters. The less-socialized of the kitties returned to the lot, where volunteers work with the lot owner

to feed the cats and give them shelter in the cold.

"As cute as they look, they will just jack you up," said Oldham of the pussies lazing about the parking lot. "There's a feral cat saying, 'A friendly cat is a dead cat.'"

Oldham struggled to open a reluctant sardine can, when she was interrupted by a middle-aged man picking up his car from the lot.

"Catwoman!" he cried, and introduced himself as Robert. "It's a nice thing you're doing. Now that they're fixed, they don't spray ya."

See CAT LADY on page 14

CAMERA SHY

Suit: Ratner had me arrested when I took his spy cam off my building

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

One of the remaining property owners in the footprint of the proposed Atlantic Yards project is suing developer Bruce Ratner for mounting a surveillance camera in his building, and then having him arrested for taking it down.

"They took me out in handcuffs, put me in the back of a police car and took me to the station," said Lars Williams, who lives with his sister in a building on Sixth Avenue between Pacific and Dean streets that he co-owns with his dad.

"I spent a night in jail for taking a camera off [our] building," said Williams in disbelief.

The Williams family sued last week in Manhattan Supreme Court charging that Ratner's company had no right to install a video camera on the premises.

The suit — which names Bruce Ratner, his vice president, James Stuckey, and their company, Forest City Ratner — also claims that a man named Michael Machuch, an "agent and/or employee" of Ratner's, had Williams arrested on Oct. 1 for burglary by wrongly telling cops that the camera had been on Ratner-owned property.

Williams was booked, but released on his own recognition pending a court date next month.

Despite repeated attempts by The Brooklyn Papers, a Forest City Ratner spokesperson refused to comment. When a reporter called FCR directly asking for Machuch, she was told that there was no employee by that name.

Security cameras have been sprouting up all over the footprint for the proposed \$4.2-billion office, residential, hotel and arena mega-project, but this is the first time anyone has

See SPY CAM on page 15



Lars Williams points to the spot in his home where Bruce Ratner's company had installed a surveillance camera. Williams tore it down and was later arrested.

Lawmaker: Give us A'Yards info!

By Gersh Kuntzman

and Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Journalists and opponents of the Atlantic Yards aren't the only ones complaining that the mega-project's lead state agency is withholding public information — now a local state legisla-

tor is making the same claim.

Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope) said that his office had been forced to file a formal "Freedom of Information Law" request this week to force the Empire State Development Corporation to release "all financial information related to the Atlantic Yards project."

Brennan said he had to take on

the state agency because elected officials — who earlier this year rubber-stamped \$100 million for the project with little debate — have not been given "complete information." Such information is vital, Brennan said, so the public and elected officials can determine whether the project needs to comprise eight

See YARDS INFO on page 15



MAGGIE MAYHEM

Photo draws readers' wrath. The Papers apologize.

Vito's Foley linked to Mark

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Rep. Vito Fossella has donated \$1,000 he received from disgraced ex-Rep. Mark Foley to a Staten Island charity for abused children, and now, Fossella's Democratic rival for Congress is demanding that he return the \$7,000 he's gotten over the years from embattled House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

"You don't want to show support for someone who has not been diligent in his duties as Speaker of the House," said Stephen Harrison, the Bay Ridge attorney running against Fossella, New York's only Republican congressman,

for the seat that covers Staten Island and Bay Ridge.

Hastert has been engulfed in accusations that he knew about Foley's sexual harassment of male pages, but took no action against Foley, who resigned



abruptly two weeks ago after ABC news aired his raunchy instant-messages to House pages.

Fossella has received \$7,000 from Hastert's Keep our Majority PAC since 1997 — but a \$5,000 contribution came in June 2005, after the Clerk of the House says he told Hastert's chief of staff about Foley's behavior.

"Hastert was aware there were problems for months," said Harrison. "He should have investigated and done something about it."

But Fossella is standing firm. "He is not returning Hastert's money," said campaign manager Matthew Mika. Harrison paints Fossella's refusal to

return Hastert's donation as a sign of his blind obedience to the Republican party and to President Bush.

"What we have is a congressman who says he is an independent, but will always rally around the Republicans, rather than do the right thing," Harrison said.

The harsh tone of Harrison's rhetoric echoes the tone of the first two of his debates with Fossella.

At a forum this week at St. Philip's Church hosted by the Dyker Heights Civic Association, Harrison dispensed with the usual introductory speech to talk instead about what he termed a "deception," pointing to a piece of Fossella's

See FOSSELLA on page 14



Rep. Vito Fossella (left) and disgraced ex-Rep. Mark Foley shared a stage in Miami earlier this year.

Aquarium designs are Coney's latest freak show



Cast your vote: The city is choosing a new look for the New York Aquarium in Coney Island from three final designs created by (left to right), the big-mouth bass by WRT; the sand-dune panorama by Smith-Miller & Hawkinson; and the jellyfish of West 8 Urban Design and Weisz & Yoes. Vote for your favorite at www.brooklynpapers.com and we'll tell the city Economic Development Corporation which design our readers preferred.

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Will the next freak in the Coney Island be a 50-foot jellyfish, a phosphorescent whale with a gaping mouth or the architectural love child of a Beluga and the Cyclone?

In two weeks, city officials will

select one of the three sea-themed design proposals as the new exterior of the New York Aquarium, a drab concrete-walled compound just beyond the boardwalk on Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street. The renovation — the first since the aquarium opened in 1957 — is one element of Mayor Bloomberg's \$83.2-million plan to attract new

visitors to Coney Island and its oft-forgotten attraction. The final designs were drafted by West 8 Urban Design with Weisz & Yoes Architecture; WRT; and Smith-Miller & Hawkinson — and each touted its scheme at a Community Board 13 meeting last week.

All had positives, but one local

activist hoped city officials would choose a design freaky enough for Coney Island, once the honky-tonk playground of the Western world. "Give us something loud. Give us something comic," said Dick Zigun, the founder of the Coney Island Circus Sideshow and a member of the board of directors for the Coney Island Development Corporation.

Zigun favored the "comic jellyfish" — his nickname for Weisz & Yoes's 16-tentacle tower — and dismissed WRT's canopy as "a blob" and Smith-Miller & Hawkinson's design as "a conceptual prison fence."

Whichever design is chosen, the city hopes to make the Aquarium a national destination. Right now,

only 750,000 people visit it annually, most of them coming from five boroughs. Yet nationally, aquariums do big business. The Monterey Bay Aquarium, for instance, draws an average of 1.8 million people per year. The Georgia Aquarium, which opened less than a year ago, has already

welcomed its three-millionth admission-paying tourist. Planners hope to finish the aquarium facility around the same time as developer Joe Sitt finishes his Las Vegas-style "amusement mall" — a \$1-billion retail, megaplex, hotel and indoor water park project slated to rise on Surf Avenue from 12th to 15th Streets.

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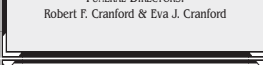
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Chivary is dead on Atlantic Ave.

By Claire McTaggart
For The Brooklyn Papers

A suitor hoping to get a pretty woman's phone number ended up slapping his way out of the situation after she refused his advances on Oct. 7, police said.

The woman was waiting at a bus stop on Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street at around 5:15 pm when the man aggressively demanded her digits.

She refused, so he made his demand more pronounced: "Bitch, give me your number!"

Next, he slapped the victim and stole a one-hundred-dollar bill from her hand.

Cops later arrested him nearby, police said.

Thief snagged

An armed robber burst into a cellphone store on Montague Street on Oct. 3 and showed an employee a note stating, "This is a robbery. I have a gun. Give me all your money."

The clerk emptied two cash registers of \$1,341 and handed it over to the gunman, who jumped into a waiting car and fled the store, which is near Clinton Street.

But he forgot one minor detail: When cops pulled him over nearby at around 5:30 pm, they found the gun, the cash, and the very note he had just used to rob the store.

Teenage crime

Two 15-year-olds were robbed of their cash and cellphones by a pair of 14-year-olds at the corner of Hicks and Old Fulton streets on Oct. 6 — but one of the thieves was quickly collared, cops said.

At around 6 pm, one of the thugs pulled a box-cutter, while his accomplice helped himself to the cash and phones. He also threw a loose punch that missed his victim completely, cops said.

The youngsters split, but one was soon arrested.

Habla bummer?

A visitor from Spain was mugged by two Hispanic men on the corner of Hunts Lane and Henry Street on Sept. 20, cops said.

The duo approached the tourist asking for directions, and when he replied that he didn't speak English, the men pushed him and made away with his bag, which contained clothes, cash, a camera and a watch.

Purse theft

A 64-year-old woman had her wallet picked on the corner of Willoughby and Jay streets on Oct. 6 — and by the time she noticed anything missing, the thief was ringing up charges on her credit cards.

She lost \$110 in cash, and her credit card company is dealing with the \$176 in charges racked up by the thief.

Stroller snatch

In what has become Downtown's most common crime, a woman's wallet was stolen out of a pouch in her baby stroller while she was shopping at a chain department store in the Fulton Mall on Sept. 29.

The 23-year-old had been shopping at around 5 pm, but when she went to pay for her items, she noticed that her credit cards and cash were missing.

By the time she called her credit card company, \$1,570 had already been rung up.

Candyman can't

Two newsstand operators in the Jay Street subway station allegedly accosted a young man they accused of stealing a newspaper and throwing candies onto the tracks on Oct. 7.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Big loss

A 40-year-old man was robbed of nearly \$47,000 in diamond jewelry and watches while moving his things to a new apartment on Sept. 28.

Somewhere in the process of clearing out his apartment on Main and Plymouth streets, the man didn't notice that a thief made his way into his digs and struck gold, making a clean escape with the bag packed full of Tiffany's jewelry and Rolex watches.

Classic theft

A man from Queens who left a bright yellow 1964 Chevy Impala on Dean Street and Third Avenue at around 6:15 pm on Oct. 1 returned about an hour later to find it gone.

Police said they were looking for the collector's edition car, valued at \$15,000, which has New York plate number DAZ4834.

Condos at Telco site

A vacant landmark tower in Downtown Brooklyn, which once housed the New York Telephone Company and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, is being converted into luxury condos — the latest Brooklyn icon to become housing.

The 77-year-old Art Deco building, at Bridge and Willoughby streets, rechristened "BellTel Lofts," will hold 219 units ranging in price from \$500,000 to \$2-million.

"It has outlived its usefulness as a commercial building, and now, as a residential building, it will help create a more permanent Downtown community," said Michael Burke of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, which encourages development in the area.

A city effort to encourage high-rise office construction started with a 2004 upturning, but developers have shown other inclinations. Some of the projects already begun — including twin residential towers on Gold Street — hope to turn the area from a busy business-day shopping area into a place to live and work.

"The goal is to revamp Downtown into a mixed-use, mixed-income area that will be alive 24/7," Burke said.

But some local business owners are worried that their businesses will suffer.

"Expensive apartments won't be good for us, especially if the price of everything goes up," said Charlie Hui of the neighboring Magic Touch Cleaners.

A similar conversion of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank will provide more luxury apartments, and many groups have floated plans to turn vacant office space along the Fulton Mall into residential lofts. — McTaggart



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Sneaky thief strikes at farmer's market

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

The sticky-fingered patron obviously didn't come for the produce.

A woman shopping at the Grand Army Plaza farmer's market on Oct. 7 was pick-pocketed by a man she was trying to help, police said.

The thief asked the 55-year-

old woman to help him reach an item from the top shelf of a display, around 2:30 p.m. When she obliged, the stranger reached into her backpack and stole her wallet, then disap-

peared into the crowd.

The suspect is described as a black man, roughly 40 years old, 5-foot-3 and 120 pounds, dressed in blue jeans. The wallet held \$100, credit cards, insurance information, a driver's license and a Social Security card.

Doorstep heist

A 34-year-old woman was stabbed and robbed as she entered her Butler Street home on Oct. 4, police said.

The victim was on her way home from the subway station at Pacific Street and Fourth Avenue, and reached the door of her building around 11:30 p.m.

Caught in the act after dark in Prospect Park

The Brooklyn Papers

Cops arrested a Florida man just after midnight on Oct. 4 after he was allegedly engaged in a sexual act in Prospect Park.

The 42-year-old man and a partner were found in some bushes near the secluded Center and East drives, police said.

When Officer Luz Torres of the 72nd Precinct moved in, one of the men fled, leaving his exposed lover to face stiff punishment. He was charged with public lewdness and being in a park after sunset, according to a spokesman for Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes.

POLICE BLOTTER

Almost home

A robber attacked a man just steps from his Sterling Place home on Oct. 5, police said.

The thug rushed the 21-year-old victim from behind, around 11:30 p.m., near Flatbush Avenue.

"Empty your pockets. What do you have in the bag?" the thief insisted, swinging around to the front and punching the man in the face and stomach, leaving him with a swollen jaw.

The thief grabbed the victim's iPod and wallet, which held \$25, a debit card, insurance information and his Hunter College student ID.

Described as black man, 6-foot-10 and 180 pounds, with unusual teeth and dressed all in black, the suspect took off running towards Flatbush Avenue.

Baltic St. mug

A woman lost her cellphone to a man who robbed her outside her Baltic Street home on Oct. 3, police said.

The thief attacked his 25-year-old victim around 10:30 p.m., near Fifth Avenue. He grabbed the phone and ran off.

Police searched for the mugger, described as a black

man, 5-foot-8 tall and wearing a black hat, but were unable to track him down that night.

Fourth Av burg

A thief raided a third-floor apartment in a nearly vacant Fourth Avenue building earlier this month, police said.

The burglar forced his way through the front door of the one-tenant building between 11th and 12th streets, sometime after 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 29 and 4 p.m. on Oct. 1. When the 47-year-old tenant came home, a silver Trek mountain bike, a DVD player and a laptop were gone.

P'Heights partier plunges to death

A 22-year old Carroll Gardens resident was killed trying to jump from one Prospect Heights roof to another during a birthday party last week.

Alexander Vaubel fell to his death in the wee hours of Oct. 8, plunging four flights down an air shaft while jumping from the roof of 460 Prospect Pl. to 462.

Before Vaubel fell, a few guests were hopping back and forth over a two-foot wall at the front of the roof, a witness said. Vaubel jumped from the rear of the roof, where the wall was four feet high.

A resident of 460 Prospect Pl. told the Daily News that Vaubel had crashed the party. He was pronounced dead at 2:14 a.m.

— Ariella Cohen

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Victims cuffed in \$11K heist

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

An armed robber left a garage attendant and a security guard handcuffed inside a parking deck on Fifth Avenue at 85th Street and fled with more than \$11,000 in parking proceeds, police said.

The thief stopped his victims just before 1 pm on Oct. 2 as they were headed to the bank to make a deposit. He met them in a walkway from the garage, with the gun drawn, and insisted, "If you move, I'm going to kill you."

The mugger grabbed the money bag, with \$11,152 inside, and forced the pair into a nearby stairwell, where he handcuffed them to the railing. The thief bolted up the stairwell and disappeared.

Police are looking for a black man, 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, who wore a black-hooded snorkel jacket for the heist. Luckily, officers were able to collect DNA evidence at the garage that may lead them to the thief. They also took the handcuffs as evidence.

Fire burglar

When the firemen left, the burglar slipped inside.

The chaos following the blaze at the 73rd Street apartment house offered perfect cover for a thief, who managed to steal \$1,540 in jewelry

and electronics between 10:30 am on Oct. 3 and 8 am the following morning, police said.

A tenant upstairs in the building, between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue, saw a stranger leaving when firemen left, but details of the witness account were not available from police.

The 31-year-old victim said he lost the following items: a Sony camcorder, a Timex watch, a gold bracelet and a Calvin Klein leather wallet.

Restaurant theft

Obviously, the thief wasn't hungry for food.

Someone broke into a Fourth Avenue diner on Oct. 2, long before the coffee was even perking, and helped himself to a pair of flat screen TVs and \$300, police said.

The burglar busted the front door at the eatery, near 92nd Street, sometime between 1 am and 10 am, an employee told police. Once inside, the thief removed the TVs, valued at \$3,000 each and a cash, but didn't do any additional damage.

Unlucky break

A burglar stole phone cards, cash, cigarettes and lottery tickets valued at more than \$3,000 from a Fifth Avenue grocery closed for the night on Oct. 4, police said.

The thief smashed through a side window in the store, near 76th Street, sometime after 10 pm and before 7:30 am the following day. Neighbors didn't see or hear the break-in.

but a security camera may have captured the crime. Police were waiting last week to see the images, stored on the owner's computer hard drive.

The stolen goods included 40 packs of Newport cigarettes, 50 pre-paid phone cards, \$180 in bills and \$500 in coins, plus 250 scratch-off Lotto tickets.

What a racket

Someone broke into an SUV on 67th Street and stole six tennis rackets and a cell-phone, police said.

The 40-year-old victim parked his 2005 Chevrolet Blazer between Seventh and Eighth avenues, around 2 pm on Sept. 30. When the tennis fan returned at 5 pm the following day, the driver's side window was smashed and the \$300 cellphone and rackets — valued at \$1,400 together — were missing.

62th Precinct

Thugs arrested

A 15-year-old victim helped police nab a pair of older teens who attacked him in a Bessie Coleman park on Oct. 7.

The thugs surrounded their victim as he played with a group of friends around 5:15 pm, off Bath Avenue and Bay 23rd Street. They punched him in the head and face, kicked his shins and left him with swollen bruises on the face, cuts around his mouth and a shiner on his left eye. The wounds landed the victim at Coney Island Hospital later that evening.

When police arrived, the victim joined them in their search of the area. He identified one of his attackers, a 16-year-old, and his 17-year-old accomplice allegedly admitted to his part in the crime soon after. Both teens face felony assault charges.

Bottle beater

Police arrested a 28-year-old man after he allegedly smashed a glass bottle over the arm of another man.

The 26-year-old victim said the stranger attacked him inside his 78th Street apartment, around 10:30 am on Oct. 6. It was not clear how the thug got inside his home, off 20th Avenue, or what prompted the attack. The victim ended up with three slashes on his left arm.

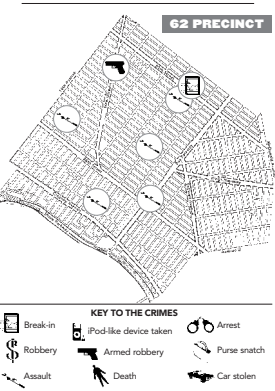
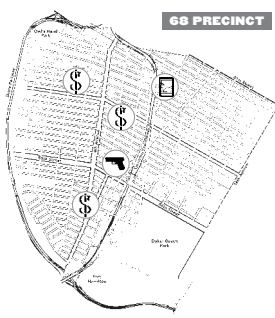
Bat attack

A 34-year-old man was standing in front of his 84th Street home on Oct. 2 when a carload of strangers pulled up, got out and beat him repeatedly in the head with a baseball bat, police said.

The thugs — the victim wasn't sure how many there were, or who they are — drove up to the house, near 15th Avenue, around 8:30 pm, in an unknown vehicle.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WHERE CRIMES TOOK PLACE



Seeking "Jack"

Police are looking for an elderly Asian man named "Jack" who allegedly attacked a man half his age on Oct. 9.

The 34-year-old victim said he was walking home along 66th Street, near 19th Avenue, when a dark-colored Maxima — with-out any license plates — pulled alongside, at around 10:20 pm. The driver, the 75-year-old "Jack," jumped out and asked the victim, "Do you remember me?"

The victim told police that he didn't know "Jack."

For some reason, the older man grew angry and picked up a long-handled flashlight. He then smashed the victim in the back of the head with the light, leaving him with a deep, bleeding wound, and sped off along 66th Street.

Early stabbing

A knife-wielding thug attacked a 28-year-old man on Bay Parkway before dawn on Oct. 9, police said.

The 28-year-old victim was returning from a subway station around 5 am when the stranger jumped him, at the corner of 85th Street. The brute stabbed him in the lower left side of his back, leaving a deep wound.

The victim, who couldn't describe his attacker, took himself to Victory Memorial Hospital.

Laundry robbed

Someone snatched \$200 from a 24-hour laundry on Oct. 5, police said.

The robber wandered into a cleaners on New Utrecht Avenue, near 71st Street, with what appeared to be a gun in

his hand, around 4:30 am.

He approached the clerk and demanded money; the employee opened the drawer and handed over \$200. The thief ran off before the clerk could get a good look at him.

Would-be burg

Police busted a 27-year-old woman before she could burglarize a 63rd Street apartment she targeted on Oct. 6.

The woman pushed in the door the building, near 19th Avenue, at 3 pm. That's also when police showed up — causing her to bolt from the scene, empty-handed. Officers from the 62nd Precinct tracked her anyway and the woman now faces attempted burglary charges.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 14, 2006

Mellow yellow

Gallery Players stage Boerum Hill scribe's hit show, 'Urinetown'

By Karen Butler
for The Brooklyn Papers

Four years after taking home a pair of Tony Awards for the Broadway hit, "Urinetown," Boerum Hill author and lyricist Greg Kotis is still marveling at the way his ode to pay toilets has been embraced all over North America.

"The response to the show continues to be a happy surprise," Kotis told GO Brooklyn. "I generally feel like I've gone off the deep-end after I reach the end stages of developing a full-length piece. That was certainly true for 'Urinetown.' It's a relief when people return after intermission."

After running on Broadway from 2001 to 2004, this hilarious musical satire of corporate greed and government corruption has spawned a popular national tour and well-received productions in Canada and Chicago. This month, Park Slope's Gallery Players is staging its own version of the musical about a city where individuals have to pay to pee, thanks to a water shortage and opportunistic financiers and politicians. The title refers to the place to which violators of the strict commode codes are exiled.

Reportedly moved to pen the musical after an unpleasant encounter with Europe's pay public toilet system, Kotis won his Tonys for writing the show's book and co-writing its lyrics with Mark Hollmann. The musical also earned Gallery Players alum, John Rando, the Tony for best director.

Although Kotis admits he has checked out a few of the newer productions of "Urinetown," the married father of two says he generally tries to avoid them, so he can concentrate on creating more shows.

"It's a thrill to see new takes on the material, new solutions to challenges in the

script," he explained. "I am trying to keep a little bit of distance, however, so that I can write new stuff."

With Tom Wojunik at the helm, the Gallery Players production features Jon Frazier as Officer Lockstock, Jennifer McCabe as Penelope Pennywise, Joshua James Campbell as Bobby Strong and Kat Aberle as Little Sally.

Despite the attention he has received since "Urinetown" became a sensation, Kotis says his life-style hasn't changed all that radically in recent years.

"I live with my family in the same apartment we did prior to 'Urinetown,'" he said. "It's small, but it's right across the street from my kid's school, so we've stayed put. I wouldn't say our life is 'normal,' exactly, but we've been given a great gift of time to work, write and see what life is like without a day job."

"My wife, Ayun Halliday, is also a writer. She's just published her fourth book, 'Dirty Sugar Cookies,' which everyone should buy, in addition to her other books, 'The Big Rumpus,' 'No Touch Monkeys,' and 'Job Hopper.'"

So, what is it like being half of a couple who writes for a living? "Having two writers in the family means that our apartment — more days than not — is very messy," quipped the veteran of the experimental, Neo-Futurists theater troupe and author of the play, "Jobey and Katherine."

comedy about how a couple and their farm-hand try to hold onto their 15,000 pigs as the Environmental Production Agency cracks down on them for dumping sludge into the river, the husband starts to drink and the



'Urine' luck: (Above) Catia Ojeda stars as Hope Cladwell and Joshua James Campbell as Bobby Strong in the Gallery Players production of "Urinetown," written by Greg Kotis (inset).

In addition to working on two new musicals and "a number of plays that are all in various stages of development," Kotis is also putting the finishing touches on "Pig Farm." A new, dark

wife catches the eye of the help. "Pig Farm" recently enjoyed a successful engagement at New York's Roundabout Theatre Company where it was directed by Kotis's "Urinetown" collaborator, Randa Hirsch.

"The 'Pig Farm' script is just about done," said Kotis. "We had a great run at the Roundabout over the summer, and the Old Globe has just launched an equally excellent production in San Diego last week, so now it's just a matter of entering in the changes and getting the manuscript off to the publisher."

but also the rest of New York City.

Christie announced that he had added "more performances to our season because we want the orchestra to play together more often."

As part of that initiative, the exciting new series, "BIP Presents," debuts with two genre-busting concerts at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, "hosted" by Christie. On Feb. 1, "Four Scored" presents a quartet of female vocalists — Laurie Anderson, Nellie McKay, Joan Osborne and Suzanne Vega — who will each perform her tunes with various ensembles featuring members of the Philharmonic. On March 9, "Antony and the Johnsons" features the orchestral debut of this acclaimed vocal group.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic's 53rd mainstage season — subtitled "The Sound of Brooklyn" — begins Feb. 3 with the program "Earth Awakened," in which Christie leads the orchestra in works that touch on the mysteriousness of Mother Nature and mankind's primal instincts. Opening this evening are two compositions by Australia's own Peter Sculthorpe: "Earth, Cry," which features William Barton playing a wind instrument indigenous to the Aborigine people, the didgeridoo; and "Mangrove."

At the press conference, Christie shared that this will be a reunion of sorts with Barton, an Aboriginal musician, with whom he had collaborated on a recording of

See CHRISTIE on page 9

FESTIVAL



Native arts

Dancers, artists, musicians and scholars are headed to Long Island University's Brooklyn campus for a one-day-only, free celebration of "Native Americans: Living the Diaspora." On Wednesday, the university is focusing its semi-annual diaspora conference exclusively on Native American culture and art, hosting a myriad of performers and events that will take place throughout the day and are open to the public.

Conference coordinator Lisa Biggs told GO Brooklyn that above all, the lineup will make for "a really rich event."

"It's a chance to look at different artforms in the Native American diaspora and also to talk to artists about the history and politics involved in their work," explained Biggs.

According to Cliff Matias, director of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council, the state of New York has the sixth-largest population of Native Americans in the U.S., and the largest percent of this population live here in Brooklyn. The Redhawk Native American Arts Council is one of only two indigenous arts organizations in the tri-state area, known best for their annual "Native American Heritage Celebration" powwows held at Floyd Bennett field.

Redhawk's interactive dance and music workshops are a highlight of LIU's conference as the group will use live musicians and dancers (pictured above) to perform and interpret indigenous dances like the "fancy dance," "grass dance," "chicken dance" or "hoop dance." Workshops will be held in Metcalf 323 from 10 am to 11:50 am (for those who sign up in advance). At noon, there will be a grand performance by the Redhawk Dance Troupe in the Kumble Theatre.

Another feature of the conference is the opening of the exhibition of Native American visual art in the Salena gallery, with a reception at 6 pm. Artists Duane Slick (Winnebago/Mesquakie) and Jason Lujan (Apache) will use photography and painting, respectively, to present two diverse views on Native American identity and myth as well as its role in contemporary society.

According to his artist's statement, Lujan's "The Sacred Nothing" (pictured at top) is his take on Native artifacts and their interaction with the tools of collection, restoration and preservation.

Biggs encourages New Yorkers to come to what she promises will be "a unique opportunity to learn about Native American cultures and meet Native artists of different backgrounds."

"Native Americans: Living the Diaspora" will be held on Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus at Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn on Oct. 18, from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public for free admission or to register for workshops, call Lisa Biggs at (718) 488-3355 or go to www.brooklyn.liu.edu.

— Claire McTaggart

ART



Spooky stuff

There is nothing like a good scare to celebrate the Halloween season. That's the idea behind the Micro Museum's "Haunted Maze," which will be terrifying Brooklynites during the last three Saturdays of October.

Maze co-creator and resident artist Kathleen Lazriza called the activity "a study in fright" as young couples, families and children of all ages test their courage against the 26 laughing "evil clowns" (pictured) as well as eerie projections, installations, interactive art and film.

During the three Saturdays, the museum is also hosting a costume competition and will award a museum gift basket to the winner on Nov. 1. The "Haunted Maze" is open to the public from noon to 7 pm on Oct. 14, 21 and 28 at the Micro Museum, located at 123 Smith Street at Dean Street in Boerum Hill. Admission is \$2. For more information, call (718) 797-3116 or visit the Web site, www.micromuseum.com.

— CM



Brooklyn Philharmonic music director Michael Christie at the River Cafe on Sept. 24.

Another beginning

Maestro Michael Christie reveals highlights of the Bklyn Philharmonic's 2006-2007 season

By Kevin Filipksi
for The Brooklyn Papers

With only one season as the music director of the Brooklyn Philharmonic under his belt, 32-year-old conductor Michael Christie is already leaving an indelible mark on the organization.

Following Robert Spano's departure at the end of the 2004 season, the Brooklyn Philharmonic was in a state of flux: 2005, in which several conductors came and went, was essentially a run of "try-outs." And Christie, who at the time had just finished his four-year tenure as artistic director and chief conductor of Australia's Queensland Orchestra, got the job after leading

the Brooklynites in April 2005.

From the start, Christie began molding the orchestra in his vision: his youthful enthusiasm and his passion for all forms of music have been largely responsible for getting Brooklyn Philharmonic audiences buzzing again.

In announcing the orchestra's upcoming season at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge at the always splendid (secularly and gastronomically) River Cafe last month, Christie eagerly discussed the four mainstage concerts taking place at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House from February through May 2007, as well as mentioning the many — and always expanding — community outreach programs the orchestra is involved in, not only throughout its eponymous borough

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood
Dining GuideThis week:
ATLANTIC AVENUE

Dhaka

148 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (718) 858-4340 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.75-\$17.55.

Opened in March 2005, this Indian restaurant specializes in curries and tandoori, quick-roasted meat and seafood dishes prepared in a traditional clay oven ("tandoor"). Out of that oven come dishes such as shrimp tandoori — large shrimp marinated in herbs and spices and served with spinach and mushrooms. Owner Alam Rahman recommends the "dampkoti" — a dish much like a pot pie, filled with your choice of meat or vegetables — or "zira," a cumin-flavored curry dish. Chef Saizul Islam also prepares a number of vegetable-based entrees, like the "baingan bharta," a whole eggplant baked and blended with herbs, sautéed onions and tomatoes. A few varieties of bread — some with assorted fillings — are also available. For appetizers, Rahman recommends the "aloo bhajia," a potato cake with chickpeas and sauces or "kathoris," a deep-fried lentil pastry with mashed potatoes, chickpeas and homemade sauces. Dhaka's "lunch box to go" offers one meat, seafood or vegetable curry served with basmati rice, flat "nan" bread, "dahi" (a lentil sauce) curry, rice pudding, condiments and soda for \$4.95 to \$8.95. There's also a "dinner-to-go," including soup, an appetizer, an entree, "nan" and rice pudding for \$15.95, which is enough for two people. Free delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Downtown Atlantic

364 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 852-9945. www.downtownatlantic.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$22.

The decor of the restaurant run by husband-and-wife team Kurt and Fran Spisel certainly is "classic style with a modern twist" as it says on their menu. For lunch, there's the "bucconi al ragout d'agnello" (long pasta tubes tossed with a slow-simmered lamb ragout) and much more. Kurt noted the beer-battered fish and chips as a favorite lunch special as well as the braised, crisp pork shank, which is cooked for six hours and served with sautéed cabbage and homemade apple sauce. Downtown Atlantic even has their own bakery where you can sample one of Fran's cupcakes, generously topped with an elaborate buttercream frosting and coconut shavings or a blueberry crumb tart. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday, and dinner and brunch (beginning at 11 a.m.) on weekends. Closed Mondays.

Jolie Restaurant

320 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 488-0777 www.jolierestaurant.com (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$25.

From the art displayed on the walls to sleek banquets and contemporary-style chandeliers, Jolie Restaurant is all about its name — it's very "pretty." In addition to the 50-seat dining room, you can enjoy a Nancy's, Laura's or Jolie's — cocktails known as "Jolie juices" — at the 10-seat marble-top bar.

The classic French dishes, created by chef Christophe Giet, are the most "jolie" of all. For starters, there's a steak tartare au cognac that is "famous," boasts co-owner Benjamin Boudier; they also offer sautéed sea scallops with tomato, garlic, basil and white wine; lamb shank with creamy potatoes, "petit pois" (leeks) and natural jus; or market fish with leeks, fennel bouillon and warm herbs vinaigrette. Complete your meal with a crepe Suzette, a crepe filled with orange cream and heated at table, or the creme brûlée trio, flavored with blueberry, vanilla and espresso. Outdoor dining is available in the 50-seat rear garden. Open Mondays for dinner; Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner; weekends, for brunch and dinner.

Mai

497 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and New Street, (718) 797-3880 (Cash only) Entrees: \$9-\$15.50.

At Mai (pronounced "MY"), benches are strewn with rose and apricot Indonesian pillows, their golden threads glinting in the subdued glow. "I serve light, healthy dishes with lots of seasonal

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papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, Disc= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Fried shrimp po' boy at Stan's Place.

vegetables, owner and chef Daniel Wu told GO Brooklyn. Take the "kan baka," a fillet of pan-seared snapper with grilled zucchini and eggplant and a swirl of coconut milk flavored with ground cardamom (like a mole sauce but crispier), lime juice and lemongrass, that GO dining critic Tina Barry calls "dazzling." Other specialties include "vi sao gang," a half-duck over Chinese broccoli sautéed with Asian mushrooms, ginger and wine sauce; or the "cha do xau" (spring roll), filled with salmon and cilantro leaves, served with a dip of basil, mint, lime juice and chili. The "ca ban," wok-fried monkfish eaten with a lettuce leaf wrapper, and "muc nuong," a single, grilled squid stuffed with shrimp, glass noodles and chilean mushrooms make "stellar" appetizers according to Barry. For dessert, Wu offers grilled pineapple, roasted chestnut and coconut sorbet with palm sugar caramel and a lot of freshly grated ginger tea. The restaurant seats 35, with garden seating available in weather permitting. Delivery and catering available. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily.

Nicky's Vietnamese Sandwiches

311 Atlantic Ave. at Smith Street, (718) 855-4838 (Cash only) Sandwiches: \$3.95-\$4.50.

The popular East Village sandwich shop has opened another location in Brooklyn, offering five different varieties of Vietnamese sandwiches as well as hot dishes for those who prefer a full entree. Gyrfi Dang, the new location's manager, recommends the classic — a toasted baguette with pate, Vietnamese ham, roasted ground pork, pickled carrots, cucumber, cilantro and mayo, which you can wash down with fresh lemonade or an iced satay plum drink. Nicky's seats about 14 or delivers for orders totaling \$7 and up. Open noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

Sana's

193 Atlantic Ave. at Court Street (Cash only) Entrees: \$8.95-\$15.95.

Chef and owner Abdul Alammah says that Sana's is the place to come for traditional Yemeni and Middle Eastern cuisine. Offering menu options such as "salsa," a boiled soup with chopped lamb meat, potatoes and chickpeas served with a homemade flat bread, this three-month-old restaurant combines traditional dishes with popular Middle Eastern favorites like falafel sandwiches, shish kebabs and lentil soup. For dessert Alammah recommends the "sana," a "sweet" treat made with rosewater and syrup that goes well with any assortment of their teas or Turkish coffee. Sana's has a changing selection of sandwiches and soup combinations for under \$5 with options such as beef or chicken stew. The restaurant seats about 50 people and is open from 11 a.m. until 4 a.m. daily.

Stan's Place

411 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, (718) 596-3110 (Cash and AmEx) Entrees: \$10-\$20.

This year-and-a-half-old Boerum Hill restaurant, which seats about 40 customers, is straight from the New Orleans scene. Owner Stan Williams has put together a unique, Cajun-style restaurant that's slogan is "Good food, good music, good folk." The signature dish, the New Orleans classic shrimp po'boy, features those lightly fried cutouts served on a French baguette with remoulade sauce. If you have an early morning appetite, "Bubba's big breakfast," which comes with eggs, bacon, cheese grits and a corn muffin, should more than satisfy. Manager Ole Alnkola also recommends the baguets — French market donuts that go well with the "cale da mornie." Open Monday through Friday for breakfast, lunch and dinner and weekends for all-day brunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.

Savory French

Provence en Boite's new location offers Gallic charm, cuisine and upscale burgers

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

Some restaurants start off with a "slow" opening. They do little or no advertising, hoping that friends and a few intrepid diners will spread the word. This way, kinks can be worked out in the kitchen and among the waitstaff. By the time a story or two about the place is published, hungry diners to the eatery, whatever issues surfaced in the beginning will be resolved.

Chef Jean Jacques Bernat and his manager Leslie didn't have that luxury. Before they opened Provence en Boite on Smith Street in June, the couple were proprietors of a popular French bistro and patisserie of the same name in Bay Ridge. When they closed shop in 2004, the neighborhood missed Bernat's slow-cooked, classic bistro fare and the kind of buttery pastry any self-respecting French baker would be proud to proffer.

Before the couple opened this new location, word leaked that the duo was about to re-establish their eatery, and, says Leslie, "We were packed from day one and it hasn't let up since."

Diners, who tried the bistro in its early days, ran into a few problems. There were postings on Internet sites mentioning long waits for tables, stressed-out waitstaff, and food taking longer than it should to reach the table. But that was then. It's been more than three months since they've begun, and whatever issues plagued the eatery in its early days appear to have gone poof!

On a recent Tuesday evening, the place was full and customers stopped in to purchase pastry and bread at the glass counter. While I wouldn't say that dishes flew to the table, they did arrive in a timely manner. The waitstaff seemed relaxed and friendly, and — most important — the food was as good as it was in the former location.

Some patrons may find the cafe atmosphere a bit formulaic in its adherence to classic bistro touches: lace curtains and a pastry case filled with huge, cloud-like merengues. However, it is truly authentic in the Provencal, or country, style. When I visited the south of France last



Boite of course: Homemade pistachio moussaka at Jean Jacques Bernat and Leslie Bernat's Provence en Boite on Smith Street.

summer, all the eateries looked identical to Provence en Boite, right down to the paisley-printed tablecloth.

The decor may be a trifle contrived, but it is charming. And where else would you feel comfortable spooning up "gratinée à l'oignon," (rich onion soup with a crust of melted Gruyère) or "escalagots à la Provençale" (small, sautéed oysters in butter with garlic and red wine sauce)?

The small, focused menu contains few surprises, no disappointments and many high points.

DINING

Provence en Boite (263 Smith St. at Delancey Street in Carroll Gardens) accepts American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$16-\$25. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays. For reservations, call (718) 797-0707.

Bernat is fond of "foie gras" (goose liver) and finds ways of balancing its unctuousness with acidity. He uses the richness of crispy seared liver by placing it over a thin slice of sautéed green apple, then swirls a bit of blueberry sauce around the plate. Creme fraiche in the sauce lends a touch of acidity.

"Foie gras" makes another appearance in the "Le Jean Jacques," a "burger" for lack of a better name. The idea for the dish came from a customer who raved to Bernat about chef Daniel Boud's "DB" burger served at DB Bistro Moderne in Manhattan. Boud's version is made with shredded short ribs, foie gras and black truffles.

"It was a joke at first," says Bernat, whose original spin-off was called the

"JB" burger. After a few tries, he devised the opulent, wildly delicious version of the original that, at \$25, is a relative bargain compared to Boud's \$29 tab. Bernat begins with rib-eye, a deeply flavored, heavily marbled cut of beef. He puts the meat loosely around a layer of foie gras that melts as the burger grills, adding a buttery texture to the center.

The ingredients he chooses to top it with are inspired. Beneath the large patty is a mound of sweet caramelized red onions and sautéed cherry tomatoes, both adding a bright note to the works and even more juicy. Warm sauerkraut and a slice of melting Brie top the meat.

Yes, it's a lot going on. But the cabbage cuts through the richness and adds a needed sharp note while the cheese imparts a nutty, creamy quality. It's a large, messy, homely concoction that drips juice onto freshly baked slices of brioche.

What it lacks in elegance though, it makes up in full force flavor. It's luscious. In keeping with tradition, foie gras is served. Not the standard shoestring fries (I was slightly disappointed by their appearance), but they're still thin and very tasty.

"Lapin bourgeois" (rabbit braised in white wine) is understated compared to the burger. The meat has the richness of dark chicken, tender flesh, and the wine's sharpness brightens the game. He serves the stew simply, as they do in Provence, with a mound of buttery mashed potatoes, a few slow-cooked pieces of leek and carrots and a splash of sauce.

A traditional "coquilles St-Jacques" (scallops served in their shell with a cream and cheese sauce) gets a light spin in Bernat's kitchen. The mollusks are removed from the shells and seared until their edges are crispy. Instead of a heavy mornay sauce (made with cream and wine), he adds a touch of whiskey to the pan and swirls it with creme fraiche. The result is a rich, silky puddle with a tart, boozy edge. He serves the seafood with a tangle of sautéed Greenmarket vegetables that change daily. A pile of crisp asparagus, oyster mushrooms and green beans make a worthy partner to the main attraction.

One of the pleasures of dining at Provence en Boite is knowing that at the conclusion of the meal you'll be served a dessert that won't disappoint. Bernat is as good a pastry chef as he is with the savory side of the menu. He's been on the faculty of the culinary arts program at the New York College of Technology on Jay Street for seven years.

His tartis are crisp, buttery crusts and fillings that are light and not overly sweet. His crepes are a master class in how to do the dessert right. Order these thin, egg-y, silken pancakes with Grand Marnier. The liqueur is heavy; bitterness chocolate deepens the works; and orange zest adds texture and a bright citrus note.

It's too bad for the Bay Ridge community that Provence en Boite has changed locations, but that's what the F train is for.

Sampling frenzy

Contrary to your guesses, BoCoCa is not a foreign confection, a chic restaurant, or a product of Coca-Cola. Rather, it is a contraction of the neighborhood names: Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens that are uniting on Oct. 14 to celebrate two neighborhood additions with a wine-and-food tasting for all.

"Take a Bite of BoCoCa" celebrates the opening of Carroll Gardens' newest corner of Smith Street and Second Place, as well as the funding secured to upgrade the Culinary Arts Facility at the School for International Studies on Court and Baltic streets.

"We made it a populist event that everybody in the neighborhood could afford," says event organizer, Bette

Soltz, of the South Brooklyn LDC. The draws are "food, wine and neighborhood camaraderie."

The edible samples are provided to-day, from 2 to 6 p.m., in the Transit Garden and at booths on the opposite side of the street, at the plaza in front of the F and G train station. Here, you can try bruschetta from Panino's, 275, mini brioche lobster rolls from Union Smith Cafe (pictured), a selection of wines from Smith & Vine, cheeses from Stinky Brooklyn, and many other delicacies from local eateries.

Coupon books will be sold at the event for \$20 (for 12 tastings) and \$10 (for five tastings). The event is Oct. 15. For more information, call (718) 852-0328. —Sasha Vasilyuk

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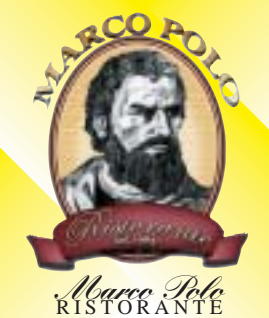
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October 14, 2006

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Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

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OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY TOUR: Learn about the history of Brooklyn's changing landscape firsthand. Take a hike through some of Prospect Park's least-explored regions, including Leuk Out Hill, the second highest point in Brooklyn. Tour is moderately strenuous. \$10. 10 am to 11:30 am. Meet at Audubon Center, inside the park's Vanderbilt Street and Prospect Park Southwest entrance. (718) 789-2822, ext. 10.

BIRD WATCHING CRUISE: Prospect Park Audubon Center hosts a cruise aboard the electric boat Independence. Tour the Lullwater, a scenic habitat for flora and fauna. \$10. \$6 kids. Binoculars provided. Noon to 12:40 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

WEKSVILLE WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk around this neighborhood. See artifacts from the archeological dig. Also, visit the original Hunterly Roadhouses (additional \$3). 95. 98 seniors and students. 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Meet in front of Boys and Girls High School, Fulton Street and Bay-vent Avenue. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

FORT GREENE WALK: New York Life's Native offers a walk around Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. \$15. 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Call for meeting location. (718) 793-7537. Visit www.nylifeactive.com.

WALKING TOUR: Maurice Lorcene hosts the Metro Tour Service, taking a walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25. 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

PERFORMANCE

BARGE MUSIC: presents a chamber music program featuring works by Haydn, Prokofiev, Newman and Rozsa. \$35. \$30 seniors. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2053.

DANCE: The Berkeley Carroll School presents Aerial Dance Company in "Upright: A Conspiracy of Movement." \$15. \$10 students. 7:30 pm. 181 Lincoln Pl. www.girlshomestead.org. (718) 534-6569.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Myceanese," a poetic operator. \$20 to \$40. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. Also, "Nine Hills One Valley," by Ratan Thyang's Choro Repertory Theater of Minerva. \$20 to \$45. 7:30 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

COMEDY: Theatre OUP performs "Plouti A Dive in the Hudson," at the DUMBO arts festival. Interactive, 40-minute comedy-cruise focuses on public transportation, security, emergency procedures and love. Cruise departs from Fulton Ferry Landing every 30 minutes from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. For information, visit www.theatrou.org. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents Les Freres Corbusier's "Hell House." Part installation, part performance, part haunted house. Intended for mature audiences. \$25. Demon-guided tour begins at 7:30 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents the musical "Urinetown." \$18. \$14 kids and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 352-3101. www.galleryplayers.com.



Ofelia surfaces: As part of WHITE WAVE's "2006 DUMBO Dance Festival," Dancescores by Ofelia Loret de Mola will perform "Aktun Spuk!" at the John Ryan Theater on Oct. 21 at 8 pm.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S THEATER: Heights Players Storybook Theater for Children presents "Goldilocks." \$5. 11 am, 26 Willow Pl. (718) 237-2752.

ART MAKING: Brooklyn Museum hosts "Any Facts." Explore the galleries, enjoy a family activity and create art. Appropriate for ages 4 to 7. \$8 adults, free for kids younger than age 12 and members. 11 am and 2 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

HARVEST FEST: Old Stone House hosts a toy hunt, sponsored by the Doll and Toy Museum of NYC, as well as pony rides, a petting zoo, a hay wagon and pumpkin painting. 11 am to 4 pm. J. Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. (718) 768-3195. Free.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP: Part Stone House and The Park Slope Civic Council host a swap meet. To get a costume, bring a costume. First come, first served. 11 am to 3 pm. J. Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue and Third Street. For information, visit parkslopeparents.com. Free.

OTHER

CONSUMER BANKING DAY: NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. speaks at Medgar Evers College. 9 am to 2:30 pm. 1650 Bedford Ave. Reservations required. (212) 689-3089. Free.

FLEA MARKET: at Redemer St. John. 10 am to 4 pm. 939 83rd St. (718) 833-7700.

HARVEST FAIR: 6/15 Green Community Garden hosts its fall event featuring face painting, pumpkin painting, apple bobbing, bake sale, magician, tarot readings and pot luck dinner. 10 am to 4 pm. Sixth Avenue and 15th Street. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 15. www.neighborhoodlink.com/brooklyn/615green.

CRAFTS FEST: at the Brooklyn Museum. Works in leather, stained glass, fashions in silk, cashmere and cotton, home furnishings from dinersware to dinner tables and more. 11 am to 5 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 764-0091.

MICRO MUSEUM: hosts its annual Haunted House. Freaky installations, visual montages and crime scenes aim to scare children of all ages. \$2. Noon to 7 pm. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

INSTALLATION: Gallery 440 presents works by Todd Erickson, an environmental sculptor. Noon to 6 pm. 440 Sixth Ave. (718) 499-3844. Free.

ART UNDER THE BRIDGE: DUMBO Art Center hosts the 10th annual "dumbo art under the bridge festival." Live art, videos, panel discussions, interactive art and more. For complete program details, visit www.dumboartcenter.org. (718) 694-0831. Free.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION: Green-Wood Cemetery unveils and dedicates its new Korean War Memorial to the 28 high-born U.S. soldiers who died in the war. Mass at noon, ceremony at 1 pm. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 768-7300.

OPEN STUDIOS: Triangle Artists' Workshop hosts an open studio day. 1 pm to 6 pm. 20 Jay St. ground floor. (718) 858-1260. www.triangleworkshop.org. Free.

FALL ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents "Experimentation," an exhibit of over 1,000 pieces of art by 233 artists. 1 pm to 4 pm. "Artists Speak" series at 1 pm and runs all day. Two dance at 2 pm. 409 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506. Free.

BANCINEMATEK: presents "An Independent Spirit: Monte Hellman." Today, "Two-Lane Blacktop" (1971). \$10. \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-FILM. www.ban.com.

BITE OF BOCOCA: Wine and food tasting event benefits The Transit Garden and South Brooklyn. Live music, family activities. \$10 includes five tastings. 2 pm to 6 pm. Transit Garden, corner of Smith Street and Second Place. (718) 852-0328.

INSTALLATION: Artist Agata Olak Oleksiak presents her living installation "100% Acrylic." Her crocheted work covers several bodies in interaction with the surrounding environment. 4:30 pm. 59 Adams St. (611) 1092-3679. Free.

PROSPECT PARK BALL: Black tie evening of dinner, dancing and carousel rides under a tent. 6:30 pm to midnight. For information, visit prospectpark.org. (718) 956-8988.

SUN, OCT 15

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: hosts "Walk Away for autism." A 10K walk to raise funds for autism. Walk is held simultaneously with other events around the United States and throughout the world. Registration at 11:30 am; walk at 1 pm. 25th Street at Fifth Avenue. (347) 684-2999. www.walkaroundtheworld.org.

WALKING TOUR: Architectural historian Matt Postel leads a walk that explores ideas of change and memory in monuments and memorials. Tour begins in the exhibition "Looking Back from Ground Zero" and ends at Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch at Grand Army Plaza. Brooklyn Museum sponsors tour. 2 pm to 3 pm. Call for ticket info. (718) 638-5000.

PERFORMANCE

CHAMBER MUSIC: Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents The Jasper String Quartet. \$15. 3 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Third Street. (718) 855-3053.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Haydn, Prokofiev, Newman and Rozsa. \$35. \$30 seniors. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2053.

CONCERT SERIES: Music from Good Shepherd series presents the chamber quartet Pacifica. Donations encouraged. 6 pm. Good Shepherd Church, Avenue 5 and Brown Street, Marine Park. (718) 998-2800.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: Les Freres Corbusier's "Hell House." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Oct. 14.

OTHER

FUNDRAISER WALK: A competitive "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk in honor of the victims and in memory of those who have died to raise funds. No registration fee or fundraising minimums, donations welcome. Registration at 10 am. North Street bandshell, Prospect Park. Walk follows circular Park Road through Prospect Park. (718) 237-7851, ext. 924.

SUNDAY PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture offers a talk: "The Crisis of Health Care Problems and Solutions." A screening of the short film "Don't Be A Chicken About Health Care." 11 am to 12:30 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718)

768-2772. Free.

BANCINEMATEK: presents "An Independent Spirit: Monte Hellman." Today, "Flight to Fury" (1964). \$10. \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm and 6:50 pm. Also, "Back Door to Hell" (1964). 4:30 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-FILM. www.ban.com.

CRAFTS FEST: at the Brooklyn Museum. 11 am to 5 pm. See Sat., Oct. 14.

FALL ART SHOW: "Experimentation." 1 pm to 6 pm. Artist Priscilla Bain-Smith gives a presentation on food symbolism in works at the Met. 1 pm. See Sat., Oct. 14.

ART UNDER THE BRIDGE: DUMBO Art Center hosts the 10th annual "dumbo art under the bridge festival." See Sat., Oct. 14.

Mon, Oct 16

TAKE YOUR MAN TO THE DR: New York Medical Associates of Avenue J provides cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose and memory screening. 10 am to 3 pm. 1309 Ave. J. (718) 677-1710. Free.

SENIOR FITNESS: City Parks Foundation and state Sen. Martin Golden's office offers City Parks Senior Fitness. Sign up for tennis lessons. 10 am. Tennis Courts, Avenue 5 and East 32nd Street, Marine Park. Call for information. (718) 699-4200. www.cityparksfoundation.org. Free.

PARENT OF NEWBORN: Families First hosts a discussion group. \$250 for 10-week series. 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Advance registration is necessary. 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

BANCINEMATEK: presents "An Independent Spirit: Monte Hellman." Today, "Outcast of the Islands" (1951). \$10. \$7 children and seniors. 4:30 pm and 7 pm. Cinemachart with Monte Hellman and Elliott Stein follows. 7 pm screening. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-FILM. www.ban.com.

HELP THE ANIMALS: Slope Street Cats hosts a fundraiser to help local cats. Event features a wine and chocolate tasting at Cocco Bar in Park Slope. \$25 includes wine or hot cocoa, chocolate bon-bons, and entry to win a door prize. 6:30 pm to 9 pm. 208 Seventh Ave. (718) 699-4303.

BARNES AND NOBLE: hosts a young adult reading with Scott Westerfeld, author of "The Ugly Trilogy." Also, Justice Leiber-lesser reads from her book "Magic Lessons." 6:30 pm. 207 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: hosts a reading with Margaret Reid, author of "Mrs. Big." 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4976. Free.

MILONGA: Learn the Argentine Tango. No experience or partner necessary. \$20 per class. Class meets for four weeks. 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Families First, 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

ANGER WORKSHOP: Learn about anger in your family. Families First presents a therapist who explores the many faces of parental anger and its impact on children. Learn how to detect triggers, anger patterns, practice ways of expressing anger effectively and more. Five weekly sessions. 11:00. 7 pm to 8:30 pm. 250 Baltic St. Call to register. (718) 237-1862.

BREAST CANCER MONTH: State Sen. Mary Goleen's office invites members of the community with concerns about breast cancer to call the Adeleyn NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program. Trained volunteers who are breast cancer survivors staff the hotline. (800) 877-8077. Free.

Tues, Oct 17

RECEPTION: Pratt Institute presents a faculty exhibition. 4 pm to 6 pm. 200 Wiloughby Ave. (718) 636-3517. Free.

BANCINEMATEK: presents "An Independent Spirit: Monte Hellman." Today,

Continued on page 11...

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'Landmark' building on the block

Corner of Seventh Ave and Second St housed quirky bar

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

That wacky house that everyone knows as "that wacky house" in Park Slope on Second Street and Seventh Avenue, is again on the market — for a wacky price.

Until last week, real-estate giant Massey Knakal was marketing the neighborhood's ultimate fixer-upper — which once housed the legendary Landmark Pub — for \$5.75 million.

At that price, the house isn't generating much interest from buyers — but news that something might soon happen with the building certainly interested former regulars of the low-key first-floor bar. "Landmark was full of weird toys, like kids' xylophones and random stacks of junk," recalled Kelly Kenney, a chef at the Second Street Cafe across the street.

Regulars described the cluttered space as the kind of joint the Collyer Brothers might have opened. In this case, the hoarders were Dorothy Nash and her two daughters, Esther and Rachel.

"They would go buy cases of beer — probably from the Key Food across the street — and sell the cans for \$3 each," said Kenney. Another former Landmark regular added, "It was as if the Addams family or Queequeg from 'Moby Dick' opened a bar."

"You'd walk in and the old lady would give you a silly hat, a coffee can and a stick," he said. "You'd have to keep time with whoever was performing on stage."

But this regular's favorite part of the bar was not what happened inside, but the looks he'd get from people on the street.

"You have to realize that this 'bar' was only open once or twice a week — and only for a few hours," he said. "So you'd be sitting in there and you could watch people walk by, stop dead in their tracks, and peer in as if they simply could not comprehend what



The building that houses the Landmark bar — which closed in the late 1990s — is on the market — with an asking price of nearly \$6 million. The derelict piece of real estate sits in the heart of Park Slope.

they were seeing."

Chris Selicous, who used to live just around the corner, had similar memories.

"There were no regular hours, so it was catch-as-catch-can," he said. "They served both kinds of Yuengling beer in bottles."

"I never saw it crowded, but that was part of the charm. You didn't go there to head off to a corner and drink. It was more like a little party. ... And then they just stopped altogether."

Estimates vary on when exactly the Landmark Pub closed, ranging anywhere from 1996 to 1999.

But everyone agrees that following its demise, one of the daughters — the one who went to Fashion Institute of Technology — tried to open a clothing shop on the site.

That, too, didn't last. Now, the building, officially at 501 Second St., is covered in graffiti. An old "Landmark Pub" sign still hangs in a window, the white letters peeling off. In another window hangs a defunct Miller Lite neon sign.

A tier reads, "Identify yourself! There's no place like Landmark Pub." Unfortunately, the Nashes weren't eager to identify themselves to The Brooklyn Papers, despite numerous at-

tempts to contact them.

But there are still sightings of the family — including a bizarre appearance by Esther and Rachel on the reality show, "Single in the Hamptons."

Stephen Silverman, who lives near the Nashes' other building, on Second Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues, said mother Nash still stops by the brownstone every couple of months — but that the building, like the one housing the Landmark Pub, is abandoned.

Silverman has many old recollections of the Nashes.

"When I first moved here in 1997, I had these old plastic chairs in my backyard that had gotten disgusting, so I put them out in the trash," said Silverman. "[Dorothy] ended up putting them in her front yard."

Both of the Nash buildings are well known to city officials. The brownstone between Sixth and Seventh av-

enues has racked up 21 violations over the years, 20 of which are unresolved, including 2004 violations for failure to repair the disintegrating front wall.

Likewise, the 10,400-square-foot pre-war building that used to house the pub has racked up 26 violations, 21 of which are unresolved, including a 2005 violation for failure to maintain the exterior wall, a 2003 violation for loose windows that could fall and injure passers-by, and another in 2002 for overall failure to maintain the building.

That might help explain why the former pub isn't selling. "The building is a disaster," said Ken Freeman, the Massey Knakal realtor who'd been marketing it for two months.

Last week, Freeman got so fed up with the owner's unwillingness to drop the price that he dropped her instead.

"They have an inflated view of the building's worth," said Freeman. "I'd say it's worth about \$4.5 million."

As the building sits on the market, some regulars wish the bar would just reopen for one last party. But not everyone is nostalgic.

"That building is a hazard," said Brian Mitchell, who tends bar at Two Boots restaurant across the street. "If there were ever a case for eminent domain, this is it."

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Steps taken to save mansion



The city Landmarks Preservation Commission has taken up the cause of protecting a Civil War-era mansion in Clinton Hill that is slated to be torn down for luxury condos. The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

The 152-year-old home, at 70 Lefferts Pl., would need landmark status to be spared the wrecking ball.

"We are looking very closely [to determine] its worthiness from a preservation standpoint," confirmed Landmarks spokeswoman Elisabeth de Bourbon.

Clinton Hill residents, led by the Lefferts Place Civic Association, have opposed developer Christopher Morris's plans to tear down the vacant home and build a seven-story condo building.

Morris's original plans set a demolition date for September, but if the Italianate mansion is granted landmark status, not only would he no longer be able to tear it down, but any changes would be closely monitored by the commission.

Morris could not be reached for comment.

— Claire McTaggart

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Whose park is it anyway? Everyone wants his piece of green

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Take one crew of cyclists, add a traffic-jam's worth of cars, a marathon of runners, a pack of walkers, a Peninsula full of dog-owners, stir in a terabyte of wireless Internet users, a murder of birders, and a smattering of strollers, and at times, Prospect Park can border on mayhem.

All of this is, of course, inherent to a popular park of only 9 square miles. Olmsted and Vaux's masterpiece may seem as expansive as the western plains to some Brooklynites, but it's tiny in relation to the ever-increasing number of people who use it.

More than 8 million people visit the park a year — up from just 1.7 million in 1980, according to the Prospect Park Alliance, which manages the park. "They all feel it's their park," said Tupper Thomas, the president of the Alliance.

"The cyclists, this is their cycling park, the runners, it's their running park, the concert-goers go for concerts. There's even barbeque and non-barbeque."

If the park is increasingly a battleground, it's no surprise, given how many different constituent groups — from runners to sunbathers, softball players to soft-ice-cream eaters — are using the emerald expanse. The arrival of wireless Internet access two weeks ago may mean the emergence of an entirely new user-group, presumably with its own reasons to kvetch.

A trip to the park on any day shows that Brooklynites are a territorial — and entitled — bunch. As Skipper Mike Yim barbequed last weekend, he took a moment to decry his personal park nemesis — the guitar-players who butcher classic songs, particularly those of Bob Dylan. "You just hate the guy who can't sing and has a guitar,"



A woman jogs along the East Drive of Prospect Park, open to automobiles during weekday morning rush hours.

said Yim.

Apparently, one also hates the guy who walks the park bearing Sukkot blessings.

Katti Wachs, an atheist and Windsor Terrace resident, was approached by two wandering Lubavichers last weekend, while she was languidly leafing through a tabloid in the grass.

"When people interrupt me when I'm in the park, I get irritated, particularly when they have religious purposes," said Wachs, who's seen a lot of proselytizing Mormons and Jews for Jesus lately.

And everyone hates a litterer (except the litterer, perhaps).

"But it's just par for the course — outright disrespect for the property," said Alex Nazaryan, a Crown Heights

resident and park user who complains of trash scofflaws.

Even worse than the beer cans is human waste.

"I hate it when people go to the bathroom in the park in broad daylight," said Amy Duquette, a member of the Prospect Park Track Club who was helping out at the Fourth Annual Miles for Maldives race.

"And we're not just talking about number one," said Duquette. "There is human feces near Prospect Park West and 13th Street all the time, and my

Green war

Prospect Park may seem large, but its many users are constantly fighting over turf. Here are a few of the many warring tribes:

- cyclists vs. pedestrians
- dog owners vs. birders
- softball players vs. soccer players
- litterers vs. environmentalists
- cellphone users vs. quiet
- contemplative types
- ducks vs. geese
- cars vs. everyone else

— Rubinstein

Rotweiler used to eat it."

Duquette couldn't see it, but as she spoke, a mom helped her young daughter look out for number one behind a rock.

For now, cyclists and dog owners are taking the most heat, Thomas said.

"This summer, [Transportation Alternatives] became more aware of the hostility against cyclists," said Thomas. "There were many close calls."

And at least one that wasn't close at all. On June 23, a pedestrian-cyclist crash sent a badly injured walker to the hospital.

A few months ago, Transportation Alternatives began an education campaign, benignly called the "bicycle ambassador program," to get bikers to slow down in Prospect Park — but the cycling advocacy group said the program was not related to the June 23 crash.

Anne Perzery, president of the Prospect Park Track Club, who's both a jogger and a cyclist, sees both sides of the conflict.

"There appears to be a huge increase in the number of cyclists of all ages and abilities riding the wrong way," she said. "That needs to be enforced, and enforcement is not happening. Bicycles are very definitely vehicles."

On the other hand, pedestrians aren't necessarily doing their part to avoid conflict. Perzery had a near collision recently thanks to some reckless walkers.

"I was coming down a hill on my bike, and there was a group of youngsters coming off a bus," she recalled.

"The person who was directing them into the park had her back into the oncoming traffic. I had nowhere to go at all, because the running lanes were occupied so I started screaming 'Heads up!' 'Heads up!' It could have been really dangerous for the kids and for me."

Another battle raging on the park's green lawns pits dog owners against other park-goers who don't like the pets' off-leash privileges between 9 pm and 9 am.

Kimberly Edwin, a Prospect Heights resident, says she's stopped visiting Prospect Park because of run-ins she's had with free-ranging dogs.

"The stress of encountering off-leash dogs outweighed the benefits of regular exercise," said Edwin, who complains of an "dog-owner entitlement mentality."

She's a supporter of this summer's lawsuit by a Queens community group against the Parks Department challenging its long-standing courtesy hours.

But dog-owner organizations like Prospect Park's FIDO, argue that dogs actually make parks safer for all patrons.

"In the 1960's, reported dog bites in the city exceeded 40,000," said Robert Marino, the president of NYCDOG. "By 2005, this dropped to less than 4,000, of which only 86 — just 2.2% — occurred in parks."

Moreover, "Police data supports the crime deterrent effect of increasing responsible parks usage," he said.

Thomas, the Alliance president, agreed. But as with all of these competing interests, she admitted she sometimes feels like she's more referee than ranger.

At least one park user, though, was able to look at the silver lining to this storm cloud: The good news is that Prospect Park has less conflict than its Gahpattan counterpart, says Pippa Mockridge, who used to run in Central Park.

"Central Park is a lot worse than here," she said. "The cyclists would yell at you to get out of the way. Here, people are nicer."

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OUR OPINION

Stop hiding, Gargano

JUST WHO DOES Charles Gargano think he's working for — the public that pays his salary or developer Bruce Ratner?

Gargano, the chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation, made it clear on WNET's "New York Voices" last week that he'd rather negotiate in secret with Ratner than defend the public's interests.

The show's host, Rafael F. Roman, asked Gargano why the ESDC has refused requests from project opponents, journalists and now even state Assemblyman Jim Brennan to release financial information that could show whether Ratner is getting a sweetheart deal (as many suspect) or merely making a reasonable real-estate deal with the state that will earn him a fair profit (as he claims).

Putting aside for a second the notion that an assemblyman had to use the state's Freedom of Information Law to get information from a state

agency (!), Gargano's answer should appall anyone who believes that government gets its powers from the consent of the governed.

"First of all," Gargano said, "what they are looking for is internal documents, working documents. ... We are now still negotiating and when you are negotiating, you don't open your cards up to who you are negotiating with. ... That's simple business. It is not a question of not wanting to make documents available. When they are completed, when the deal is done, then the documents will be public record."

When the deal is done?

In Gargano's mind, the deal is done, and any proposals competing with Ratner's need not be entertained, lest they expose weaknesses in Ratner's done deal with the state.

The whole purpose of Gargano's top-down, smoke-filled approach is to hide such vital in-

formation as the developer's actual costs, his expected profit, and the full cost of the massive public subsidies on which the entire project floats.

In the interview — which can be seen at <http://www.thirteen.org/nyvoices> — Gargano did more than just romanticize the glory days of the backroom deal.

He also insulated himself from future criticism with the bizarre claim that he is selling out Brooklyn to save it: "We work for a common good, something that the developer can live with and not walk away from a project and say, 'Well, too bad. We can't do it; the public sector doesn't want to be a partner with us.'"

But Gargano is wrong: The public sector does want to be a partner with developers — as long as the public has a seat at the table when the turkey is carved up.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Fleming

LETTERS

Magnificent Maggie fills the mail

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

The front-page picture of Maggie Gyllenhaal is both tasteless and sexist ("Hello, Neighbor!" Oct. 7). You have insulted your readers and Ms. Gyllenhaal. Is this any way to treat a new neighbor?

Mr. Kuntzman, I am glad I do not live next to you.

Hilary North, Prospect Heights

I am not a prude

To the editor,

What are you, the New York Post? I'm no prude but this is hardly appropriate for a "family" publication.

As a new "Brooklynite," as well as new mother, Ms. Gyllenhaal would prefer to be seen in a slightly more demure guise. Jane Landis, Park Slope

I'm really no prude

To the editor,

This is a community paper. I'm not a prude, but this is a bit much, don't you think? Are you going to join the ranks of the Enquirer? It's really terrible. Daniel Luck, Fort Greene

Nice plug

To the editor,

Hey, what happened to your Brooklyn cool? We welcome celebs to Park Slope precisely by NOT making a big fuss and celeb circus.

An apology from The Papers

Our front-page photo last week of actress Maggie Gyllenhaal represented a lapse of discretion for which we apologize. Given the nature of the photo, its placement on Page One was inappropriate and not in line with our standards.

Cheap and easy

To the editor,

I was puzzled by your choice of photo. Running a nearly nude photo of the actress on your front page is hardly a neighborhood welcome.

Did you just Google around for the most inappropriate free-of-charge photo you could find? Not nice! Kevin O'Leary, Park Slope

And from the left...

To the editor,

I'm actually a left-wing person. I'm not upset with puerile things in general, but I find the photo really distasteful and unbecoming.

Part of the appeal of living in Park Slope is part of the snooping of neighbors. I agree, but not that kind of exploitation of our neighbors.

I actually think you owe her an apology, and you owe all of us an apology. I feel very strongly on that.

Rebecca Welch, Park Slope

Think of the kids!

To the editor,

What could have been going through the minds of your presumably mature editors, who made a decision that could have been expected of a 14-year-old [when they printed that salacious photo]?

The photo was especially inappropriate given that children can come across the paper after it is delivered to thousands of front stoops.

Michael Bradley, Park Slope

Great photo!

To the editor,

Kudos on exposing the Maggie Gyllenhaal threat. Let history show that The Brooklyn Papers was the first to realize that her move to the Slope could undermine marriages within a 12-block radius.

My own wife (who was once quite attractive, I might add) has ordered me to cross the street if I see the Divine Miss G coming down the block. Hyram Blufu, Park Slope

No ethics

To the editor,

I bet Maggie Gyllenhaal felt really good about moving here when she spotted your cover while pushing her newborn in a stroller along Seventh Avenue.

Anything to sell free papers, right? Catherine Gigante-Brown, Windsor Terrace

Not on my watch

To the editor,

What's with the soft-core porn on the front page?

Seriously, yowza! Just so's ya know, that wouldn't have flown with me, back in the day.

Diane Webber, Silver Springs, MD
The writer was editor of The Brooklyn Papers from 1996-1998

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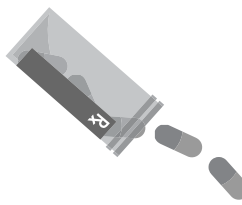
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Church conversion halted in Fort Greene

City: Developer needs to scale back

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

A developer's plan to turn a 118-year-old Fort Greene church into a playground for the rich was temporarily derailed last month by city landmarks officials who took issue with the scale of the 13-condo project.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission sent Carlton Mews developer Doug McDonald back to the drawing board because the proposed annex and new, four-story addition to the Gothic-revival chapel would dwarf the historic sanctuary and adjacent

parish house at the corner of Adelphi and Carlton streets.

The city board recommended that McDonald reduce the size of the new condo building and create more open space within the three-structure parcel, according to Landmarks spokeswoman Elisabeth de Bourbon.

"The commissioners were concerned about... the size and the number of additions, which they felt overwhelmed the church," she said.

But de Bourbon said that the agency supports the overall plan.

The Landmarks ruling surprised neighbors, who are eager to see the

former St. Michael's Episcopal Church, a long-vacant cathedral, fixed up and occupied.

"This [project] could be a wonderful outcome for a site that we have destroyed," said Philip Kellogg, president of the Fort Greene Association.

Kellogg sees Carlton Mews as a rare instance of contextual development in a historic neighborhood that is fast sprouting glass-walled high-rises.

"So far, this developer has really showed respect for the scale of the neighborhood and the need for preservation," he said.

Kellogg is right to be concerned

about the fate of his spire-topped, stone neighbor. Many of the century-old chapels that made Brooklyn the "Borough of Churches" are falling apart, even as those in affluent neighborhoods such as Fort Greene are undergoing renovations.

After more than 100 years in a soaring, stone cathedral on Fourth Avenue at Ovington Avenue, Bay Ridge Methodist decided to sell its landmark property for \$12 million. The buyer will be able to build an 8,555-square-foot residential tower on the site and the non-profit church building will get a new, smaller church building, and pile of cash on its collection plate.

"Churches are a fantastic natural resource for Brooklyn," said Jean Miele, who converted the former

Spencer Church at 101 Remsen St. in Brooklyn Heights into apartments in 1981.

"People aren't going to church quite as much anymore, but that doesn't mean that they didn't enjoy the architecture."

But the transition from holy to honey hasn't always been so simple for Miele.

The former Southern Congregational Church at 360 Court St. was the second church-condo Miele designed in Brooklyn. That once-serene building was the site of a holy war pitting the residents against a non-denominational Christian congregation that leased space in the former church.

The residents of the church building said the congregation, which has since relocated, was too noisy.



The conversion of an old church at 232 Adelphi St. has been temporarily delayed by the city.

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Other People's Brownstones

WHEN SMARTMOM'S FRIENDS with Brownstone ask if the Oh So Feisty One would be willing to water their plants or feed their pets while they're away, she almost always says "yes."

"OSFO loves taking care of pets," Smartmom tells the FWBs. Or "OSFO is saving up for a new Build-a-Bear, so she'll be more than happy to make a little change."

But those aren't the real reasons why Smartmom is so quick to accept these pet-sitting offers for her daughter. It's all about Smartmom and her brownstone envy.

Truth is, she just loves to spend time in other people's brownstones. Call it play-acting or a form of delusional behavior. Call it whatever you want. While OSFO plays with the cat or fills the plastic bowl in a birdcage with little pellets, Smartmom gets to commune with her inner brownstone-dweller. She even cooks in the kitchen using her friend's All Clad pans or listens to their Glen Gould CDs sitting on one of the parlor chairs.

Buddha knows Smartmom would love to have her own brownstone. But having missed the S.S. Real Estate as it sailed away, vicarious brownstoning is probably the closest she'll ever come. Last weekend, while OSFO shoveled cat poop into a garbage pail in her friend's roomy brownstone, Smartmom sat in the sun-drenched couch of the master bedroom reading the New Yorker (and the always-scintillating Brooklyn Papers).

Later, while OSFO was re-filling the

SMART mom



By Louise Crawford

cut's bowls with water and foul-smelling cat food, Smartmom admired the colorful tiles on her friend's shower wall.

"I'd love a bathroom like this," Smartmom heard herself say aloud to no one.

Last summer, OSFO and Smartmom took care of two guinea pigs and a pair of Mynah birds in the lovely home of another brownstone friend. This one had a fancy Jacuzzi in the bedroom — and you can bet she and OSFO took turns taking bubble baths in there with the jet stream on high.

Ah, this is the life.

Shoveling cat poop or rolling up newspaper from the bottom of a urine-stained cage is small price to pay for this kind of temporary luxury.

Smartmom is the first to admit that she feels marginalized in her own neighborhood, where real-estate values

have gone through those limestone roofs. It hurts to have been one of the early settlers in Park Slope yet failed to stake a land claim.

Back in 1991, Smartmom, Hepcat and Teen Spirit arrived in Park Slope after being priced out of Manhattan. She, for one, had to be dragged kicking and screaming to their first apartment on Fifth Street.

But they needed the space, and Park Slope was an oasis back then — even if your friends and relatives treated the East River like The Great Wall of China.

Smartmom didn't live up to her name then, failing to buy a building because she and Hepcat weren't even sure if they were going to like it here. It was Brooklyn, after all.

But the red brick, the brownstone, the dogwood trees, the sense of community all struck a chord with Smart-

mom. She fell in love with the scale of the neighborhood, its architectural integrity, and its beauty.

All these years later, Smartmom still enjoys walking down Garfield or Berkeley at night staring longingly — OK, hungrily — into bay windows.

What a nice life those people must have, she thinks. How lucky those children are to grow up there; to romp in a leafy, green urban backyard; to eat festive dinners by candlelight on the back deck.

But OSFO doesn't see it that way at all.

HER REASONS for enjoying these pet-sitting jobs are very much her own. She likes the money, of course — and she's growing quite a savings account at the fancy new Commerce Bank on Fifth Avenue. Plus, she loves animals and dreams of opening a pet-care center when she grows up.

And she doesn't seem to have a bit of brownstone envy. In fact, she hates it when Smartmom wanders around the house.

"This place is too big," she says. "I don't like to be on a floor without you."

Last weekend, while Smartmom fantasized about having a bedroom big enough for more than a bed and a dresser, OSFO was impatient to go

See **SMARTMOM** on page 14



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designed
for whites by
agents

Courtesy of National Fair Housing Alliance



Locations of Corcoran Group offices (stars above) are less likely to be in "black" neighborhoods, according to the National Fair Housing Alliance.

Corcoran Group charged with selling 'white' nabes

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

A Manhattan-based real-estate giant, the Corcoran Group has come under the scrutiny of federally backed agents who charge that the firm steered white home-buyers in Brooklyn to white neighborhoods and discriminating against blacks.

In a report released Tuesday, a coalition of 220 fair housing organizations charged Corcoran with ignoring black clients, offering more detailed financial options and incentives to white home-seekers and directing these white clients to white neighborhoods.

A "gentrification map" is a key piece of evidence in the National Fair Housing Alliance's federal discrimination complaint filed this week with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This racial steering tactic is reminiscent of discriminatory conduct from the 1970s," said Shanna Smith, president of NFHA. "Then, real-estate agents would [steer] white flight by showing ... where an African-American family had

bought a house. The twist here is that the agent used a map to tell whites where they should [move] to."

The map was uncovered in a sting operation at Corcoran's Brooklyn Heights office on Montague Street.

Four white investigators posing as yuppie homebuyers were flashed the doctored street map — complete with hand-drawn boxes and red arrows identifying neighborhoods considered to be "changing" for the better as well as established enclaves of young professionals.

A Corcoran Group employee directed the undercover agents to Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights and majority-black Prospect Heights, which fell in to the category of "changing."

Four black investigators, posing as buppies, weren't shown the map.

Corcoran became the subject of the NFHA investigation after HUD found evidence of fair housing violations in 2000. HUD asked NFHA to investigate further.

The city's largest residential real estate agency, Corcoran is synonymous in Brooklyn with gentrification. The group

last made headlines earlier this year when it sold a three-story building in Red Hook for a then-unheard-of price of \$10.75 million.

One day after NFHA released its charges, a pocket guide to fair housing sat on the front desk of Corcoran's Montague Street office, as well as on a front table at the group's Seventh Avenue office.

In a statement, the company said it condemned the conduct alleged by NFHA and would conduct an internal review of the individual agents involved.

The discrimination described by the housing coalition mirrored tactics discovered in Atlanta and Chicago, other cities that are experiencing a wave of white gentrification.

"What we see is a pattern that forces us to ask if black-by block gentrification is happening by choice or because blacks and Latinos aren't given the choice to move into certain areas," Smith said.

Seventeen of Brooklyn's 37 residential ZIP codes are over 50 percent white. Thirteen ZIP codes are majority black — but the Corcoran neighborhood map highlighted only those situated close to white neighborhoods.



**RATNER
COUNT-UP**

14

**DAYS
SINCE WE FORMALLY
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INTERVIEW WITH
BRUCE RATNER**
(As of Saturday, Oct. 14)

Cops deny profiling, but black youths see things differently

By Christie Rizk
and Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

While the NYPD denied newspaper reports that it stopped and frisked black teens in a Park Slope subway station last week, the possible subjects of the alleged searches saw things a bit differently.

"My friend got pulled over [in this station] by a cop for no reason at all," said Jamel James, who was entering the F-train station at Seventh Avenue and Ninth Street with a group of friends Tuesday.

In fact, everyone in the group interviewed by The Brooklyn Papers said they knew someone who had been harassed by police because of the color of his skin — although not necessarily at the Park Slope station.

"It's happening," said Dondon Moore, 13, who said he once watched a friend get "pulled aside by a white cop for no reason and frisked — even

though he'd done nothing wrong." Moore's friend, Dantrell Calderone, 12, offered a succinct opinion of the alleged NYPD racial-profiling: "That's messed up."

Both the New York Post and the Daily News reported this week that Capt. Michael Vanchieri, who commands a Transit District patrol based at Hoyt and Schermerhorn streets, ordered his officers to stop and frisk black teens at the Seventh Avenue station in response to a purported increase in crime at that station.

According to police records, only one robbery — on June 11 — was logged in the station this year by 78th Precinct cops.

There has been more crime at other stations, with three robberies reported this year at the Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street F and N/R station and two since October 1, 2005 at the Pacific Street N/R stop.

The NYPD denies that it ordered

Transit officers to stop the black youths. And an NYPD source told The Brooklyn Papers that Vanchieri's officers either deliberately or innocently misunderstood the orders because it would be impossible to detain and question every black teen in a station used by many such youths.

But Vanchieri's officers — whose identities were shielded by the Daily News — told the News that the orders were definitely given.

"The captain said the descriptions of the [suspects] vary a lot, so we were to stop all black males at the station, stop and frisk them because 'they have no reason being there,'" one white officer told the News.

Black youths questioned by The Paper saw a much broader problem.

"I can't walk eight feet without being 'patted down,'" said Raschard Lewis-Holmes, 16, who admitted that he had never been frisked in the station in question. "It pisses me off. They're

always going after black people."

The National Latino Officers Association and 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care protested the alleged stop-and-frisk order this week.

"This is obviously a violation of civil rights as well as law police work," said Anthony Miranda, president of the Latino officers' group. "Crime happens everywhere, but if a robbery happened on Wall Street and the profile was for a white guy with a briefcase the police would not be stopping every guy with a briefcase."

Then again, they might stop black guys with briefcases, said one black man in Park Slope.

"Whenever there is a sweep like this, people tell me, 'Change the way you dress,'" said a man who gave his name only as Stash.

"Well, I can change the way I dress. I can be more humble. But I can't change my complexion. I completely believe that captain gave the order. It happens all the time."

— with Lili Stainton



Richard Woods, 16, in the F train subway station at Seventh Avenue and Ninth Street, in Park Slope, where some cops say they were ordered to stop and frisk black teens.

FOSELLA FOLEY... CAT LADY...

Continued from page 1
campaign literature in which Harrison's photo is placed next to Osama bin Laden's.

"When he puts a picture of Osama bin Laden next to mine and say I support him, that's despicable and over the line."

While making his pointed remarks, Harrison often spoke directly at Fossella, who avoided making eye contact.

Harrison continued the tactic when referring back to the bin Laden pamphlet: "This is the equivalent of putting a photo of Adolf Hitler next to you."

Fossella countered: "As far as we know, Osama bin Laden is still on the loose [and] my opponent has a much weaker position when it comes to questioning terrorists, listening to terrorists and the Patriot Act."

The rhetoric may have been over the top, but so was the crowd, which behaved in a

manner more appropriate to a football game. Despite the energy of the standing-room-only crowd, many voters are still ignoring the race. Scott Shapiro, a Brooklyn Democratic activist, announced the creation of a new group, Capture Congress, that will help Brooklyn Democrats target their money to "races where the experts say the Republicans are most vulnerable."

Harrison is not a featured candidate. But Shapiro denied that the group was abandoning its hometown boy for Democrats in North Carolina and Illinois.

"Because the races are so dynamic, and because the trends [for Democrats] are so strong, we're taking a look at our list on a weekly basis to see if some candidates should be swapped out and others swapped in," said Shapiro.

Harrison said he's never heard of the group and would not comment.

Continued from page 1
car anymore."

Oldham, 32, explained why she founded Slope Street Cats in 2004.

"When I moved into South Slope and winter came around, I realized the feral cats were sleeping in boxes in the snow," she said. "I was pulling half-dead cats from basement windows. The mothers would sleep on top of cement to keep their babies warm."

"They are individual little souls out there and they deserve a good shot," she said. "It's because of humans that they're out there. We are actually responsible."

Animals.

"We don't believe that the cats belong outdoors," said PETA spokeswoman Daphna Nachmiovitch.

"For the cats, neutering does little to address their exposure to cruel people and cars."

But TNH has plenty of supporters, including the ASPCA, New York City's Animal Care and Control, and a number of Slope residents.

Oldham is trying to turn support like that into money. On Oct. 16 — remember, that's National Feral Cat Day — her group will hold a fundraiser at the Cocoa Bar, on Seventh Avenue between Third and Fourth streets, in Park Slope.

Interested cat-lovers should visit www.slopestreetcats.com.

SMARTMOM

Continued from page 13
home.

"Don't you want to stay here any longer?" Smartmom asked.

"Not really," OSFO said. "I want to go home." Home really is where the heart is. Similarly, Teen Spirit made his parents promise that they'll never, EVER move out of the apartment on Third Street. And while OSFO sometimes says she'd like a bigger bedroom, she'd hate to live in a building where her best friend didn't live on the first floor.

Even if her kids have good values, Smartmom is still besieged by crippling bouts of brownstone envy. Luckily, the occasional pet-sitting gig is like a soothing ointment on the pain in her butt called "the grass is greener" syndrome.

One quick dose, and she's back to life on Third Street.

Louise Crawford also runs the Web site, "Only the blog knows Brooklyn."

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W41

New Yorker critic slams Gehry

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

A card-carrying member of the Manhattan establishment has turned on Bruce Ratner's starchitect, Frank Gehry, calling his design for the Atlantic Yards project "a large part of the problem."

In his regular "Sky Line" column this week, New Yorker architecture critic and Pulitzer Prize-winner Paul Goldberger slammed the \$4.2-billion, eight-million-square-foot, 16-tower, arena, residential and office space development as "enormous."

In attacking Atlantic Yards, Goldberger has joined a chorus of critics. But by singling out Gehry, Goldberger has gone where few have gone: attacking the very element that Ratner has called a selling point of the project: Gehry's lush, curvaceous, radical designs.

And last month, the city Planning Commission rejected that emotion, saying Gehry's scheme would "reflect design excellence and en-

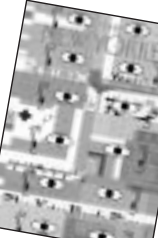
hance the future urban fabric of the area... blending distinctive architectural forms with more traditional building types."

"Gehry's great [past] success has come from architectural jewels that sparkle against the background of the rest of a city — the Bilbao Guggenheim; the Walt Disney Concert Hall, in Los Angeles," Goldberger wrote.

In Brooklyn, Gehry's challenge is to create a mini-city that fits in with its surroundings, Goldberger said.

Gehry tried to do this by grouping some understated towers around a few very elaborate ones (but rather than giving a sense of foreground and background, the juxtaposition of plain and fancy just looks like a few Gehrys bought for full price next to several bought at discount.)

Even the project's centerpiece, the 620-foot "Miss Brooklyn" tower, was too much for Goldberger. Where the Planning Commission



praised its design and did not recommend that it be shrunken, Goldberger called Miss Brooklyn "foolishly named" and "full of self-conscious Gehrism."

And where the Planning Commission said Gehry's design "would transform an area... into a vibrant new mixed-use community," Goldberger said that Atlantic Yards looks more like "a single structure

spanning multiple blocks than of a townscape that has grown organically." Unlike Gehry's revolutionary Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, Atlantic Yards is urban sprawl, Goldberger argued. "It ceases to be an eccentric counterpoint to the context. It is the context."

But like some others who oppose the scale and design of Atlantic Yards, Goldberger did have good things to say about the basketball arena that would sit near the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

"The arena is the best part of Gehry's plan," Goldberger wrote. "Its glass-enclosed spaces bring vibrancy to the intersection... Such exclamation points in a cityscape are something Gehry knows how to create better than anyone."

But as they sit in basketball, Goldberger's praise was too little, too late. His final conclusion was a slam dunk for opponents: "Ratner seems

to have been less interested in using Gehry's architectural talent to best advantage than in trying to leverage his celebrity to make an unpopular development more palatable," he wrote.

Neither Ratner nor anyone from Forest City Ratner would comment about Goldberger's article, a spokesperson said.

But the project's most prominent booster, Borough President Markowitz, told The Brooklyn Papers that Goldberger's opinion counted for Goldberger only. "When it comes to architecture, I have learned that beauty is in the eye of the beholder," Markowitz said. "Whether or not Frank Gehry is your cup of tea, I celebrate the fact that Brooklyn will soon be home to his designs... Not to mention those of Enrique Norien, Rafael Vinoly, and Richard Meier, to name a few... For me, the success of Atlantic Yards is the affordable housing, the Nets, and a new city center for Brooklyn."

YARDS INFO



ESDC chairman Charles Gargano on WNET's New York Voices.

Continued from page 1

million square feet to allow developer Bruce Ratner to build 2,250 units of affordable housing, and refurbish the LIRR rail yards over which the project will sit, while still making a reasonable profit.

"The question is, does there need to be so much luxury housing and office space to get these benefits," Brennan said. "The public can't discuss the issues of density, public benefit and revenue on a speculative basis."

Like other opponents of Atlantic Yards, Brennan suggested that the ESDC's silence spoke volumes.

"Perhaps they haven't released the information because it may show that they could have a much smaller project without losing the project's benefits," said Brennan.

A spokeswoman for the ESDC said the agency would comment "next week." But it's likely that the agency will not provide the information. In an interview on WNET last week, ESDC Chairman Charles Gargano said the agency would not release information until "the deal is done" with Ratner.

"We are now still negotiating and when you are negotiating you don't open your cards up to who you are negotiating with," Gargano said. "I mean that's simple business."

SPY CAM...

Continued from page 1

claimed that Ratner is attaching them to privately owned homes. The Williams family first discovered the camera a couple of weeks ago.

"My daughter's boyfriend, as an experiment, blocked the lens with a piece of paper," said Peter Williams, Lan's father.

"Then, a person arrived and asked him, 'What are you doing with the camera?'" A couple of days later, I asked my son to remove it and he did."

And then his son was arrested.

Peter Williams said he allowed Forest City Ratner to use his hallway as an emergency exit for the developer's building next door.

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Casket company is packing it in

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Only the dead leave Brooklyn.

The South Brooklyn Casket Company — which has maintained a bulk, haunting factory on Union Street near the Gowanus Canal since the 1930s — is talking to city officials about moving its coffin-making operation to Queens, sources told The Brooklyn Papers.

"Between the tickets for street loading and the traffic, it's an inefficient operation. They just can't stay," a source said.

They'll make a killing selling their property. When the company opened decades ago, the banks of the Gowanus Canal were the perfect place for such a macabre industry. But now, as the neighborhood becomes more residential, the company can get a nice return if it sells, a source said.

The company is looking at industrial sites in Long Island City — and neighbors are treating it like a funeral.

"The place is a landmark," said Freddy Robinson, who grew up nearby on Carroll Street. "It's a symbol of good, honest heritage. I tell my kids about it when we go by on the bus."

Harry Pantone, who owns the famously secretive company, refused to comment, in fact hanging up on a reporter twice. And on a recent morning, a workman warned an approaching Brooklyn Papers photographer against pressing the shutter button.

"If you take a picture, I'll break your camera and give you a beating," he said.

The Pantones aren't expected to bury its Union Street operation completely. Angelina Pantone, Harry's mother, still lives in an apartment above the company's showroom on the south side of Union Street.

"She's a wonderful woman, very bright and she's lived up there forever," said Buddy Scotto, a lifelong friend who runs Scotto Funeral Home nearby and is also the founder of a non-profit housing organization, the Carroll Gardens Association. He hopes to partner with Pantone in developing affordable apartments at the site.

"I'll miss them more than anyone," said the undertaker. "Who do you think I call when someone calls me and says they need a coffin? But [Union Street] is not a place for industry anymore."

DDDB walks for buck\$

for The Brooklyn Paper

Raising money to fight Bruce Ratner has never been as healthy, delicious or entertaining as it will be next week.

On Monday, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn — which opposes Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development — is kicking off a week of movies, music, comedy and food culminating in an Oct. 21 walkathon to raise funds for its impending legal battle against the 16-tower arena, hotel, residential and office space complex.

Film screenings and literary events — including an appearance by author, Pulitzer Prize-winner and DDB board member Juneteenth — will take place at restaurants and bars from Fort Greene to Cobble Hill.

"I think [the Atlantic Yards project] affects everyone in the neighborhood pretty drastically," said Mario Martinez, owner of Sample restaurant in Cobble Hill. "We're hoping this will get people to talk and exchange ideas."

Sample is one of 10 restaurants donating a share of its Oct. 19 proceeds to the DDBB cause. — Christie Rick

"Discoverer" of America	Leif Erikson	Christopher Columbus
Birth	Iceland, around 960, son of Norwegian-born Erik the Red.	Genoa, Italy, in 1451, to a family of wool weavers.
Year he "discovered" America	1001	1492
Name recognition	Popular among Norwegian-Americans, and in Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden.	Beloved in the United States for his holiday, but reviled by many South Americans for his brutality.
Where he landed	Erikson is believed to have visited Helluland (probably Labrador), Markland (probably Newfoundland), and Vinland (somewhere between Nova Scotia and Cape Cod).	Columbus landed in the Bahamas and Hispaniola, now the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
Body count	No known casualties, but scant evidence exists of Erikson's visits.	It is believed countless Native Americans died as a consequence of Columbus's arrival.
Year officially recognized by U.S. government	1964	1937

Columbus Day smackdown

Who "discovered" America? Well, if you enjoyed a day off on Monday, you've probably already learned towards Christopher Columbus.

But Leif Erikson — you know him as Erik the Red's kid — beat Columbus to the "New World" by nearly five centuries.

This year, Leif Erikson Day — Oct. 9 — fell on the same day that most of us were celebrating Columbus Day. As residents of Bensonhurst were parading on 18th Avenue, Norwegian-Americans were raising a ruckus for their ancestor.

And fighting the good fight against Columbus. "If you go down to the Dominican Republic, where Christopher Columbus first arrived, they call him 'the pirate' and worse," said John Lund, the CEO of the Sons of Norway. "Think of the diseases he brought, all of the religious artifacts he stole, how the Native Americans were forced into becoming Christians, how they were brutalized."

By comparison, Lund said, "The Vikings weren't out to take over or monopolize people."

Unsurprisingly, Columbus Day celebrants vigorously defend the Italian explorer. "I don't think you can blame all those deaths

on him," said Patrick Korten, a spokesman for the Knights of Columbus.

"Columbus [got] a less-than-enthusiastic reaction from the natives, some of whom were cannibals, and he wound up having to fight back."

"Whoever else may have visited the North American continent — whether it was Leif Erikson or anyone else — the first one who left a lasting impression was Columbus."

The National Museum of the American Indian sent over a bundle of notes that support Lund's understanding of history, including one that described how Columbus burned countless Arawaks alive or had their bodies hacked to pieces, and sold the meat as dog food because, "It was considered good military policy to give these dogs a taste for Indians."

Given the differences in style employed by the two explorers, and the fact that they share a commemoration day, we decided that it was time for our first-ever "Discoverers of America Smackdown."

See above for how these two conquerors match up in the national-holiday-worthiness department. — Dana Rubinstein

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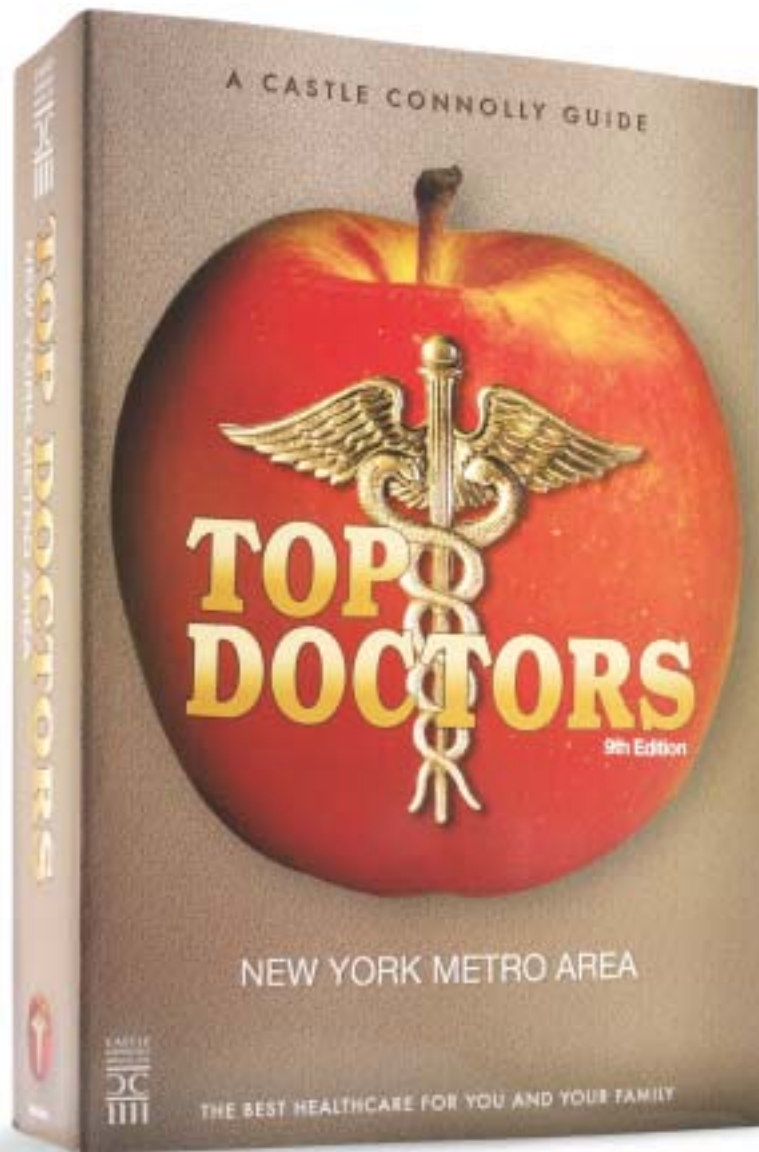
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